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C O N F I D E N T I A L LJUBLJANA 000692

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/29/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [KPAL](#) [SI](#)

SUBJECT: SLOVENIA IN ADVANCE OF OCTOBER GAERC

REF: SECSTATE 177048

Classified By: COM Thomas B. Robertson for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

1.(C) Pol/Econ Chief discussed reftel points with MFA EU Correspondent Peter Grk September 28. Grk reiterated Slovenia's consistent position on Turkey and Croatia, saying that while Austria was striving to make a linkage, Slovenia was not. Slovenia did, however, hope the EU would be able to make a positive announcement about the opening of accession talks with Croatia. Grk thought that any statement from Carla Del Ponte after her visit to Croatia would have great influence on the next steps by the EU. On Kosovo, Grk said the EU would need to see the report of UNSYG Special Rep. Kai Eide before deciding on how to move the process forward.

2.(C) Grk agreed with our points on Russia and the importance of encouraging it to play a constructive role with its neighbors. He said trying to work with Belarus was a real challenge since it is difficult to find a constructive way in. He shared our concerns on Uzbekistan and explained some of the measures the EU was prepared to take as a result of Andijon and lack of an independent investigation in its aftermath. Slovenia, in particular, is familiar with the challenges of working with Uzbekistan as FM Rupel's special OSCE Representative to Central Asia, Alojz Peterle, had so much trouble getting a visa to visit in the wake of Andijon. Grk will be interested to hear a readout of A/S Fried's visit to the region.

3. (C) Grk said he expected serious debate on the MEPP at the GAERC and Quartet meeting. He anticipated a good statement would result which would be important in helping to keep the process dynamic. Grk was aware of the request for financial support from the BMENA fund, but he could not say if Slovenia would be able to make a contribution in addition to what the EC might do.

ROBERTSON

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